



Take Pride In America®

It's Your Land, Lend A Hand



President Bush shows the way. The President lent a hand to volunteer crews repairing trails near Estes Park, Colorado, in 2001.



www.takepride.gov

"Our volunteers are a powerful force in the effort to overcome evil with acts of kindness and decency, and their service demonstrates the best of the American spirit."

– President George W. Bush

Take Pride In America, a national partnership established by the U.S. Department of the Interior, empowers volunteers from every corner of America to improve our parks, refuges, recreation areas and cultural and historical sites. The program inspires citizen stewardship through a bold and innovative public communication campaign. Outstanding volunteer efforts are rewarded with presidential recognition.

The program works with governors and other partners to launch volunteer conservation projects. Take Pride In America is part of the President's USA Freedom Corps volunteer service initiative.

Expanding Partnerships

More than 100 charter partners – including major corporations, conservation groups, service organizations and trade associations –



Department of the Interior Secretary, Gale Norton

have signed on to help Take Pride.

Take Pride features a bipartisan Council of Governors, chaired by Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne and Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, which will include governors whose

states have signed memoranda of agreements with the national program. By establishing formal partnerships with state governments, federal and state land managers can work to identify volunteer opportunities and to enlist public service commitments from citizens.

These and other organizations will help by sponsoring Take Pride In America cleanup days or by committing blocks of volunteer service time for local restoration efforts. They can form partnerships by contacting the Take Pride national office at the Department of the Interior.

A blue ribbon panel has been formally chartered to assist the Take Pride program with fundraising for public awareness, educational purposes and judging national Take Pride awards. The blue ribbon panel represents a diverse range of volunteers with



Litter remains a problem for the American landscape. The renewed Take Pride In America effort can help address this and other local environmental issues.

“Volunteers help maintain and sustain our national parks, wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries. They serve as campground hosts, clear trails, help with seasonal bird surveys, and collect new information for maps. We couldn’t do a good job without them.”

— Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton



The new Take Pride In America will even recognize restoration efforts undertaken on private lands if there are significant public resource benefits.

extensive corporate experience, conservation expertise and fundraising ability. The ability to engage in fundraising was a key feature of the Take Pride Act passed by Congress [Public Law 101-628, Title XI].

Inspiring Citizen Stewards

Take Pride In America will work to dramatically increase the number of volunteers by expanding participation among youth, senior citizen, Hispanic- and African-American, faith-based and union organizations. Take Pride will also emphasize service to inner city and urban sites, such as parks, trails, historic monuments and playgrounds.

This program has a track record of success. From 1986 to 1993, under a previous Interior Department volunteer program, volunteers logged an estimated 10 million hours in service to our public lands.

Individuals can find helpful volunteer suggestions at the “50 Ways You Can Participate” section of the Take Pride website at www.takepride.gov or they can write to: Take Pride In America, 1849 C Street, N.W., Room 3459, Washington, D.C. 20240 or email: TakePride@ios.doi.gov.

Rewarding Volunteer Service

Take Pride In America sponsors a national recognition and awards program. Each state will nominate its best Take Pride efforts to receive one of four annual national awards.

Information about the categories of awards (for example: Youth, Education Institutions, Public/Private Partnership) can be found on www.takepride.gov.

Take Pride recognizes four awards for volunteers. The volunteer service certificate is awarded to those who have logged 100 or more hours of service. Federal agencies recognize volunteers who have donated up to 2,000 hours of service. The Secretarial Award recognizes 3,000 hours of service. A Presidential Award is given to those who have reached 4,000 hours of service.

Enhancing USA Freedom Corps

During his 2002 State of the Union address, President George W. Bush created the USA Freedom Corps to encourage every American to get involved in strengthening America’s communities and sharing America’s compassion around the world.

Through Take Pride In America, the USA Freedom Corps can offer individuals across the country more and better ways to engage in volunteer projects that will make an important difference for our public lands.